

# New Owners of Bridal Veil Falls

## Sky Ride Reveal Plans, Changes

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The safest means of transportation between two given points is not walking, but by jigback aerial tramway, according to William Grubbs, one of the new owners of Bridal Veil Falls sky ride.

One of only a handful of jigback tramways in the world, Bridal Veil Falls sky ride opened under new management May 1. The steepest aerial tramway in the world, six-passenger cars are carried at a 45 degree angle up 1,800 feet of cable, traveling directly over spectacular Bridal Veil Falls to a station carved out of the side of Cascade Mountain.

Coloradians Richard Farwell, Lynwood Wellington and Mr. Grubbs purchased the tramway from Mrs. Margaret Clegg, widow of its originator last November. Purchase price was not disclosed, but the tramway was installed at a cost of some \$500,000 in 1961.

### To Spend More

The Bridal Veil operators, who also own Summit Engineering Company of Frisco, Colorado, expect to add between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to their investment over a period of time. The three have had extensive experience in virtually every aspect of ski lift and tramway design, construction and installation. A current company project is the sprawling Breckenridge ski area in Colorado. The Bridal Veil tramway has been completely overhauled so that it now incorporates the latest in safety design and equipment.

The sky ride station and gift shop has been blended into the rustic environment with new decor. Colorful accents spark the control room and mechanical heart of the system.

### Changes Planned

Several changes are planned at Bridal Veil, with special rates to be introduced to make the aerial ride especially attractive to families. The top station is now in process of conversion, with rustic fir siding to be painted to blend with the stark limestone forming one wall of the building. A railed deck area offers an unmatched vista to visiting tourist and stay-at-home Utahns alike.

Future plans include the possibility of establishing a

youth center at the top of the tram, featuring dancing and other entertainment, since the owners feel a five-month restaurant operation is not feasible. A flora and fauna exhibit, in cooperation with the forest service is also anticipated for the sky-high station.

### Shop Modified

Since much business comes from the motoring traveler, the gift shop has been modified to serve the traveler and the entire building redecorated and restocked. Hiking trails have been put in top condition for those hardy mountaineers who want to get an on-the-spot view of the dazzling falls.

Emphasizing the safety systems controlling the tramway operation, the owners explained the "memory drum" which even checks the weight of passengers without intruding on their privacy, signalling if the combined weight of a car exceeds 1,200 pounds.

Telephone communications link the stations, with the three-

and one-half to four-minute ride carefully monitored by a mechanical-servo-mechanism which combines both electrical and mechanical systems. The tramway can accommodate 100 persons an hour.

### Falls Legend

The legend of Bridal Veil Falls proposes that all who drink from its waters shall find youth and love everlasting. While the new owners make no such claims for the trip up the mountainside via tramway, most passengers quietly drink in the beauty of the rugged mountains, the awesome height of the falls, the mist shrouded lake in the distance and reflect a moment on their place in the universe.

Historically the safest way of getting from "here" to "there," the jigback tramway is also the most dramatic mode of travel in Utah County. Families seeking a new adventure close to home might make their next outing a memorable one by including a sky-high ride on Bridal Veil's thrilling jigback tram.



YOUNG ALLISON GRUBBS nonchalantly enters the Bridal Veil Falls tramway for a thrilling 1,800 foot ride past the falls. A champion skier, Allison will have the unique job of "hostess" on the tramway this summer, accompanying groups who might be afraid to try the 45 degree ascent.



